REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8 and 10-19 are pending in the application.

The Official Action indicates that claims 2 and 8 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected claims but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form; see page 7. With the examiner's comments in mind the subject matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1 as well as independent claims 12-14 and 16.

Objected-to/allowable claim 8 has been amended and rewritten in independent format.

With these changes counsel submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Should this not be the case the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned to resolve any issues that may be outstanding.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

Arthur R. Crawford

Reg. No. 25,327

ARC:eaw

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor

Arlington, VA 22203-1808

Telephone: (703) 816-4000

Facsimile: (703) 816-4100